



United States Department of the Interior

NATIONAL PARK SERVICE
Glacier National Park
West Glacier, Montana 59936

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GLAC-02-095, GLAC-02-100, GLAC-03-006

GLAC-03-007, GLAC-03-14, GLAC -03-15

Dear Friends:

Glacier National Park is preparing an environmental assessment (EA) to analyze proposed administrative and research flights in the park during 2003. A larger number of flights than normal are planned for 2003. The EA will analyze the effects of all proposed administrative flights on park resources, including visitors. The proposed actions are as follows:

Helicopter Flights

Up to 45 flights are proposed in the spring for the removal of human waste from toilet units at Granite Park Chalet and Granite Park Trails Cabin. Up to ten helicopter flights are proposed in the fall to deliver construction materials and to complete improvements to the water system at Sperry Chalet. Up to eight flights are proposed to radio towers at Scalplock, Swiftcurrent and Apgar Lookouts for maintenance of radio systems.

Fixed-Wing Flights

Up to four fixed-wing flights are proposed this winter for monitoring radio-tagged bull trout on the east side of the park, and up to four flights are proposed during fall spawning. Up to ten flights are proposed for monitoring radio-collared wolverines in the spring. Up to three flights are proposed for monitoring spring nesting activity of bald eagles. Up to five periodic flights are proposed for monitoring radio-collared gray wolves, and up to five periodic flights are proposed for monitoring radio-collared grizzly bears. Up to six fall flights are proposed to locate radio-collared Canada lynx in the east side of the park. Up to three fall flights are proposed for detection of radio-collared bighorn sheep on the east side of the park.

The EA will analyze the effects of approximately 63 helicopter and 40 fixed-wing flights. The issues identified to date include the effects of low-level helicopter and fixed-wing flights on wildlife including threatened and endangered species, visitor experience, park operations, and natural soundscapes.

An early step in the planning process is to involve the public. We would like to hear your comments and concerns regarding this proposal and the environmental issues. Please send your comments and concerns to: Glacier National Park, Attn: 2003 Flights EA, P. O. Box 128, West Glacier, Montana, 59936, or email your comments to glac_project_public_comments@nps.gov by February 2, 2003.

Sincerely,

/s/ John Kilpatrick

Authenticated by Donna J. Owen 1/2/03

Michael O. Holm
Superintendent